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Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East
Fifty-third session
Baku, 19–23 November 2018
Item 4 of the provisional agenda**
Implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Subcommission at its fifty-first session

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Note by the Secretariat

I. Introduction

1. The Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East, at its fifty-first session, held in Riyadh from 20 to 24 November 2016, adopted a set of recommendations following the consideration by working groups of the issues listed below.

2. In accordance with established practice, the report on the fifty-first session was forwarded to the Governments represented at the session. A questionnaire on the implementation of the recommendations adopted at the fifty-first session was dispatched on 21 June 2018 for responses by the extended deadline of 29 August 2018.

3. The present document was prepared based on the information provided to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) by Governments in response to that questionnaire. As at 6 September 2018, six replies had been received, from the Governments of Egypt, Saudi Arabia, the Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Turkey and the United Arab Emirates.

* Available only in Arabic, English, and Russian, which are the working languages of the subsidiary body.

** UNODC/SUBCOM/53/1.

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II. Responses from Member States to the questionnaire

Issue 1: Strengthening cooperation and coordination against trafficking

Recommendation 1

Governments should support close cooperation between their national law enforcement agencies and the private sector — including Internet service providers and money remittance companies, the banking sector and virtual currency service providers — to meet the challenge of the Internet-based illicit drug trade and the illicit financial flows related to it.

4. Egypt reported having implemented this recommendation.

5. In Saudi Arabia, the Department of Financial Investigations of the Ministry of Interior coordinates with the banking sector and money transfer companies on follow-up procedures for suspicious financial transactions and regulates Visa card payments via suspicious websites that may be used to sell drugs.

6. The Syrian Arab Republic indicated that it had launched action to adopt a set of mechanisms enabling its anti-money-laundering and counter-terrorism finance body to control money exchange and money transfer companies and check their bank transfers for money-laundering, including of funds generated by illicit drug trafficking. Virtual currencies were not traded in the country.

7. Tajikistan reported that its law enforcement agencies were cooperating closely with the Financial Monitoring Department of the National Bank of Tajikistan in this field.

8. Turkey reported relying on the Financial Crimes Investigation Board and the Department of Cyber Crime of the Turkish National Police.

9. The United Arab Emirates reported having close coordination among law enforcement agencies in place, in particular agencies concerned with the banking sector, to prevent the use of banking channels in drug trafficking. Legislation was currently being developed to prevent attempts to exploit the State's banking system for such trafficking. In addition, the State established the offence of money-laundering in Federal Act No. 4 of 2002, which established standards and control mechanisms to counter money-laundering offences. The Act was reviewed and amended in 2014 to align it with the Forty Recommendations om Money-Laundering of the Financial Action Task Force.

Recommendation 2

Governments should encourage their law enforcement authorities to regularly use the capacities of the existing regional and international law enforcement cooperation organizations and centres, such as the Joint Planning Cell, the Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre (CARICC), the Criminal Information Centre to Combat Drugs of the Gulf Cooperation Council and others through, inter alia, regular meetings of the officers involved in ongoing cases. Cooperation between these centres should be encouraged under the "networking the networks" initiative of UNODC in order to facilitate interregional criminal intelligence exchange and coordination of multilateral operations. These regional law enforcement cooperation centres should explain and propose their services to States members of the Subcommission and update them on their capacities.

10. Egypt reported having implemented this recommendation.

11. Saudi Arabia reported having participated in several joint operations to coordinate the fight against drug trafficking in the countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council under the umbrella of the Council's Criminal Information Centre to Combat Drugs.

12. The Syrian Arab Republic was keen to cooperate with international and regional organizations concerned with the fight against drug-related crime. The country had always been a pioneer in cooperation of that kind and had participated in conferences and meetings held on the subject. However, in recent years, as the Syrian Arab Republic had been boycotted by a number of countries, in particular members of the Gulf Cooperation Council, the country had not been able to achieve its cooperation objectives.

13. The law enforcement agencies of Tajikistan cooperated closely with CARICC. In particular, they participated actively in all the activities organized by the Centre within the framework of the above-mentioned initiative of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.

14. Turkey reported attending meetings of CARICC.

15. The United Arab Emirates reported hosting a UNODC office that was working to strengthen efforts to reduce crime and combat narcotic drugs to protect young people from delinquency, and to implement United Nations programmes in the areas of drug control, crime prevention and criminal justice in an integrated manner, in both the United Arab Emirates and the States of the Gulf Cooperation Council. The United Arab Emirates was keen to review the reports issued by regional offices, to exchange information and expertise on drug control, to provide advice and to benefit from the advice of experts in the regional offices.

Recommendation 3

Governments should encourage their law enforcement training and educational institutions to cooperate at the regional and international level, including under the Law Enforcement TrainNet initiative of UNODC, to facilitate the exchange of curricula, training materials, methodologies and good practices.

16. Egypt reported having implemented this recommendation.

17. Saudi Arabia reported that it had not received any training invitations from UNODC. With regard to regional cooperation for the training of law enforcement personnel, specialized training courses were held at the Drug Control Training Institute in the country for a number of employees of drug control agencies in Gulf Cooperation Council and other Arab countries.

18. The Syrian Arab Republic indicated not having received any correspondence from the Law Enforcement TrainNet initiative, but was ready to cooperate and receive curricula, training materials and methodologies from it.

19. Tajikistan reported having implemented this recommendation.

20. The United Arab Emirates reported that training courses and programmes had been held on methods of international and regional cooperation and information exchange through cooperation among regional and international entities and with UNODC. Topics discussed in meetings included the identification of good practices, such as the Airport Communication Project, which was managed by UNODC and was aimed at supporting and facilitating joint investigations and the exchange of intelligence and operational information between law enforcement agencies with a view to combating drugs through intelligence-based investigations in participating countries.

Recommendation 4

Close cooperation between law enforcement agencies and financial intelligence units should be strongly encouraged in order to more effectively target and dismantle illicit financial flows originating from illicit drug trafficking.

21. Egypt reported having implemented this recommendation.

22. The General Directorate of Narcotics Control of Saudi Arabia had established the Department of Investigation of Drug-Related Money-Laundering. The

Department worked side by side with field teams in conducting parallel investigations.

23. In the Syrian Arab Republic, coordination existed between competent bodies in the application of national laws, including the anti-money-laundering law promulgated by Legislative Decree No. 59 of 2003. This applied in particular to cooperation mechanisms between the Interior Ministry and the anti-money-laundering and counter-terrorism finance body. That body was responsible for monitoring the money flows through the financial and banking institutions in the country.

24. Tajikistan reported having implemented this recommendation.

25. Turkey reported having a mechanism for cooperation between the Financial Crimes Investigation Board and the Counter-Narcotics Department for the investigation and dismantling of illicit financial flows. The reports, which were prepared by the Financial Crimes Investigation Board, were evaluated by the Counter-Narcotics Department and shared with narcotics divisions across Turkey.

26. The United Arab Emirates reported that a national committee on cooperation and information exchange, chaired by the Governor of the Central Bank and including representatives of the Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of Justice and the Central Bank, monitored the enforcement of Act No. 4 of 2002 on money-laundering. The President of the United Arab Emirates also promulgated Act No. 9 of 2014, which provided for the transmission of suspicious transaction reports to the Central Bank. The aforementioned entities monitored the country's banking system to prevent it from being used to launder money derived from drug trafficking.

Recommendation 5

Governments should consider establishing and/or strengthening regional platforms of prosecutorial authorities in order to facilitate informal cooperation on legal matters related to the investigation of the cases pertaining to organized crime, including drug trafficking.

27. Egypt reported having implemented this recommendation.

28. In Saudi Arabia, the Crime Control Research Centre of the Ministry of Interior facilitated cooperation between security sectors, committees, national councils and government agencies. Through the country's Crime Prevention National Observatory, studies on various security issues and social risk factors were conducted and monitored systematically as part of an effective preventive policy to reduce crime.

29. The Syrian Arab Republic indicated being ready to cooperate in cases involving organized crime, including drug trafficking, in accordance with the regional and international agreements it had signed.

30. Tajikistan reported that the prosecutorial authorities of States in the region cooperated only at the official level as part of international agreements.

31. The United Arab Emirates indicated being keen to strengthen cooperation with the international community in order to combat organized crime, including drug trafficking, and to participate in regional and international meetings and forums dealing with legal matters related to the investigation of cases pertaining to organized crime.

Issue 2: Current trends and modi operandi in trafficking in amphetamine-type stimulants, new psychoactive substances and pharmaceutical preparations

Recommendation 6

Governments are encouraged to place greater focus on identifying the sources of and the criminal organizations behind the diversion and trafficking of precursor chemicals as well as "captagon".

32. Egypt reported having implemented this recommendation.

33. The laboratory of the General Directorate of Narcotics Control of Saudi Arabia periodically takes samples of seized narcotic substances, analyses them, identifies the chemical precursors used, prepares reports on the samples and exchanges those reports with many agencies at home and abroad.

34. The Syrian Arab Republic reported that the competent authorities in various ministries, in particular the chemical precursor control committee in the Ministry of Health and the General Directorate of Customs, were coordinating their activities to control the importation and use of chemical precursors, which could be used to manufacture narcotics.

35. Tajikistan reported that the State agency responsible for drug control (the Drug Control Agency under the President of the Republic of Tajikistan) had been put in charge of inspections regarding the cultivation for scientific purposes of plants containing narcotic substances, the manufacture of new narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, and the licit trade in narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and precursors. The licit trade in such substances is monitored by the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, the Ministry of the Interior, the State Committee for National Security and the Customs Service. The monitoring is coordinated by the Drug Control Agency. In the course of 2017, the Drug Control Agency conducted 168 inspections at treatment and prevention centres, pharmacies and industrial establishments to verify compliance with the rules governing the licit trade in narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and their precursors. Over this period, six cases of trafficking in sulphuric acid were prosecuted as administrative offences.

36. Turkey reported having implemented this recommendation.

37. The Counter-Narcotics Directorate-General of the United Arab Emirates is in contact with international organizations to exchange information on the procurement of chemicals and new psychoactive substances as part of international programmes and projects, such as Project Cohesion, Project Prism, the Pre-Export Notification Online (PEN Online) system and the Precursors Incident Communication System (PICS).

Recommendation 7

Governments are required to encourage their drug law enforcement, chemical control and other relevant authorities to enhance inter-agency cooperation in precursor control. Specifically, there is a need to enhance efforts to conduct effective follow-up investigations into suspicious transactions, diversions and diversion attempts and seizures, and to invest in financial investigations.

38. Egypt reported that for the importation of precursors, import authorizations were issued by the Narcotics Control Unit. For the exportation of precursors, Pen Online notifications were sent by the Narcotics Control Unit, and no shipments were allowed to proceed unless a reply was received from the importing country to ensure the legitimacy of the shipment.

39. Saudi Arabia reported having supported this recommendation through joint committees and workshops between the Drug Control Agency, the Saudi Food and Drug Authority, the Ministries of Health and Trade, and the General Administration of Financial Investigations of the Ministry of Interior, in order to unify efforts to identify suspicious financial transactions and drug trafficking into the Kingdom, and update the schedules of precursor chemicals used in the production of narcotic drugs.

40. The Syrian Arab Republic reported that the Office of the National Commission for Narcotics and specialists at the Ministry of Health were cooperating in a special committee that had been formed for this purpose, as part of the work of the National Committee for Drug Control, the Ministry of Health, the General Directorate of Customs and the Ministry of Industry.

41. In Tajikistan, the licit trade in precursors is monitored by the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, the Ministry of the Interior, the State Committee for National

Security and the Customs Service, under the coordination of the Drug Control Agency. The sectoral programme for the implementation of the National Strategy to Combat Drug Trafficking 2013–2020 is being executed. In accordance with the Act of the Republic of Tajikistan on combating the legalization of the proceeds of crime (money-laundering), the financing of terrorism and the financing of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, and in compliance with the recommendations on combating money-laundering and the financing of terrorism issued by the Financial Action Task Force, working groups have been set up within the law enforcement and oversight agencies of Tajikistan to facilitate close cooperation with the Financial Monitoring Department of the National Bank on matters related to financial investigations.

42. The United Arab Emirates were keen to attend regional and international meetings, symposiums and conferences concerned with the control of precursors and chemicals. The country was taking practical measures to control precursors and monitor suspicious transactions involving precursors and chemicals and had joined several operations to track the movement of trafficked precursors and chemicals, such as Operation Purple, to track potassium permanganate, and Operation Topaz, to track acetic anhydride.

Recommendation 8

In their efforts to counter the illicit manufacture of and trafficking in "captagon" and related precursor chemicals, Governments should gather and share information more systematically and make use of existing tools and coordination mechanisms, such as PEN Online for shipments in international trade and PICS to communicate seizures and other illicit incidents involving precursors, with a view to sharing information globally and preventing diversion elsewhere.

43. Egypt reported having implemented this recommendation.

44. Saudi Arabia indicated that it attached great importance to this recommendation, and that the competent authority within the General Directorate of Narcotics Control collaborated with UNODC through PEN Online and PICS.

45. The Syrian Arab Republic reported that it cooperated in this context with the projects supervised by the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB). All requests received were handled by the Ministry of Health as the competent authority under Law No. 2 of 1993. The use of chemical precursors and their consumption within the country was under the strict control of the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Industry.

46. Tajikistan indicated that no seizures of "captagon" or of related precursor chemicals had been reported in the country.

47. In Turkey, the Medicines and Medical Devices Agency was the institution authorized to process notifications through the Pen Online system.

48. The United Arab Emirates indicated that all export and import permits were monitored through the PEN Online system. No shipments were authorized without confirmation of the shipment data, the company's licence and the consent of the importing country.

Recommendation 9

Governments, with the assistance of UNODC and INCB, as appropriate, should further strengthen efforts of national, regional and international cooperation, participate in relevant global initiatives undertaken by UNODC and INCB, and facilitate cooperation on concrete cases, where required.

49. Egypt reported following the recommendations issued by UNODC and INCB, and applying them at the national level.

50. Since the accession of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988, the country had been committed to strengthening national, regional and international cooperation with all States parties to the Convention. To that end, several liaison and external coordination offices had been opened to exchange information about drug control.

51. The Syrian Arab Republic indicated that it was ready to cooperate and participate in relevant global initiatives undertaken by UNODC and INCB, but had not received any correspondence on such initiatives.

52. Tajikistan reported having implemented this recommendation.

53. Turkey reported that the Counter-Narcotics Department of its National Police attended the regular meetings of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and its subsidiary bodies, as well as other UNODC and INCB meetings, in particular those held within the context of the Financial Action Task Force.

54. The Counter-Narcotics Directorate-General of the United Arab Emirates indicated that it had participated in several training events organized by UNODC for the States of the Gulf Cooperation Council (counter-narcotics expert training course) and conferences, workshops and symposiums held by INCB in Vienna. There was also cooperation on the exchange of information and expertise and the provision of electronic programmes to facilitate counter-narcotics operations, such as the GO CASE-NDS national database system.

Recommendation 10

Governments may consider establishing state-of-the-art chemical profiling facilities at laboratories in order to link the samples to the trafficking networks.

55. Egypt reported that the Forensic Medicine Department was the authority that could link samples to trafficking networks by using the standards for those samples in addition to the standards supplied to the Forensic Departments by UNODC.

56. Saudi Arabia had implemented this recommendation by establishing a special laboratory for chemical precursors at the General Directorate of Narcotics Control linked to a number of national laboratories of the Ministry of Health.

57. The Syrian Arab Republic indicated that it was always seeking to develop the laboratories of the Department of Drug Control and the Criminal Security Department and use them to analyse seized items and identify their source and the trafficking networks that supplied them. There was a need for additional laboratory equipment and the materials necessary to operate it, given the embargo imposed by some countries on the Syrian Arab Republic.

58. Tajikistan indicated that, to proceed with chemical profiling for the purpose of linking samples to trafficking networks, further studies, additional funds and equipment would be required.

59. The Counter-Narcotics Council of the United Arab Emirates had prepared a national study on drug profiles and their usefulness in investigations. A national laboratory was being established for the chemical profiling of narcotic drugs in order to identify their characteristics and the sources of the chemicals used to manufacture them. The Ministry of the Interior has also participated in a study conducted by the International Criminal Police Organization that involved the testing of samples of "captagon" smuggled into the region.

Issue 3: Comprehensive and balanced drug-related policies through cooperation and coordination mechanisms among domestic authorities at all levels

Recommendation 11

Member States are further encouraged to adopt drug laws and regulatory policies that are in support of a health-centred and evidence-based approach to drug demand reduction.

60. Egypt reported that the General Secretariat of Mental Health was responsible for reducing the demand for drugs through awareness campaigns. Egypt emphasized the existence of rehabilitation programmes for addicts.

61. Saudi Arabia reported that the Secretariat of the National Committee for Narcotics Control and the Department of Preventive Affairs of the General Directorate of Narcotics Control prepared and approved annual policies and joint action plans between various governmental and non-governmental bodies to reduce the demand for drugs.

62. In the Syrian Arab Republic, the Law No. 2 of 1993 on narcotic drugs, which included the criminalization of the cultivation and production of, and trafficking in, narcotic substances, was being applied, and a new law was being drafted in cooperation with the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Health that took into account international drug control standards.

63. The Government of Tajikistan reported the adoption of several legislative and regulatory instruments to address problems in the area of drug control and the prevention of drug abuse, such as the National Strategy to Combat Drug Trafficking 2013–2020 and the sectoral programme for its implementation.

64. Turkey reported that in order to ensure local governments' active participation in the fight against drugs, a "narco-guide" training module was developed for municipal police staff, health workers and security guards. Training was provided by staff of the Division of Narcotics Crime Investigation. Among the training topics were "What kind of substance can be addictive?", "Psychological symptoms of substance use", "How to recognize a street vendor" and "Street names of narcotic substances".

65. The United Arab Emirates indicated that amendments had been made to the Narcotic and Psychoactive Substances Act to make it possible not to prosecute users of psychoactive substances if they, a spouse or a second-degree relative submitted an application for treatment to the public prosecutor, the police or a treatment centre. The amendments were an encouragement for users to seek treatment or enable their relatives to do so on their behalf.

Recommendation 12

Governments are encouraged to strengthen, through training, the capacity of law enforcement officers to engage in appropriate drug demand reduction activities, such as stigma reduction, outreach, early screening and referral.

66. Egypt reported having implemented this recommendation.

67. In Saudi Arabia, the competent authority at the General Directorate of Narcotics Control organized training courses for volunteers, academics and awareness workers to prepare them for becoming active in the raising of awareness about the harmful effects of drugs. Courses had also been designed for law enforcement professionals to educate them on drug demand reduction efforts.

68. Specialized training sessions were held in the Syrian Arab Republic for drug crime control workers, focusing on laws regulating the illicit use of drugs and identifying offenders, with a focus on all preventive measures to detect the illegal use of narcotic drugs, with an emphasis on appropriate measures to reduce the demand for drugs.

69. In Tajikistan, prevention activities were based on agency and inter-agency plans. The results achieved in the implementation of those plans served as a basis for monitoring the effectiveness of the preventive measures undertaken. Inter-agency preventive measures were drawn up in accordance with the national strategy to combat drug trafficking 2013–2020 and the action plan of the Coordinating Council for the Prevention of Drug Abuse. The staff of those law enforcement agencies that carry out prevention activities were continuously taking national and international professional development courses.

70. The Government of the United Arab Emirates reported that it was implementing several programmes to train staff in the areas of drug prevention, drug awareness and the promotion of social integration to reduce the stigma attached to addiction. It is currently cooperating with the University of Sharjah to establish a programme in drug abuse prevention that awards a professional diploma.

Recommendation 13

Governments are encouraged to promote multisectoral collaboration in the development and delivery of drug demand reduction programmes and services, through the establishment of national coordination mechanisms.

71. Egypt reported having implemented this recommendation.

72. The Secretariat of the National Committee for Narcotics Control and the Department of Preventive Affairs of the General Directorate of Narcotics Control of Saudi Arabia prepared and approved annual policies and joint action plans between various government and non-government bodies to reduce the demand for drugs.

73. The Syrian Arab Republic noted that the recommendation was in line with the essence of the work of the National Committee for Narcotic Drugs, which had been set up in 1988, and was chaired by the Interior Minister. It had representatives of various ministries, bodies, civil society organizations and unions as its members.

74. In Tajikistan, the Coordinating Council for the Prevention of Drug Abuse had been established. It was chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister. Counter-narcotics and prevention activities were based on the action plan of the Coordinating Council for the Prevention of Drug Abuse and on agency and inter-agency plans. The Coordinating Council for the Prevention of Drug Abuse is the main instrument for inter-agency cooperation. Every six months, the Council meets to discuss the fulfilment by the relevant ministries and government agencies of their tasks in connection with the implementation of drug abuse prevention programmes.

75. The Counter-Narcotics Council of the United Arab Emirates had three national committees. Among them were the Supreme National Committee for Drug Prevention and the Supreme National Committee for Treatment, Rehabilitation and Social Integration. These committees included representatives of the relevant agencies, who collaborated on the development and implementation of drug demand reduction programmes.

Recommendation 14

Governments are encouraged to utilize social media platforms for outreach and in support of evidence-based drug prevention efforts.

76. Egypt reported using television advertisements.

77. In Saudi Arabia, the Drug Control Agency carried out programmes to raise awareness of drug abuse through social media to prevent the harmful effects of drugs. The Secretariat of the National Committee for Narcotics Control played a similar role.

78. In the Syrian Arab Republic, information on drug-related crime control was published on the Interior Ministry website, and awareness-raising seminars and programmes on the dangers of the drug phenomenon and its negative effects on society were disseminated through social media.

79. Tajikistan reported that the relevant ministries and government agencies conducted outreach campaigns in the mass media, including the print media, radio and television; organized meetings and talks on drug-related topics; held seminars and round tables about drugs, as well as related cultural and sports events; and posted information on drug abuse prevention on websites.

80. Turkey reported that the Turkish Green Crescent Society was the largest non-governmental organization dealing with drug prevention activities.

81. Recognizing the importance and impact on society of social media platforms, the Ministry of the Interior of the United Arab Emirates had used its platforms and the platforms of the general police commands and National Drug Prevention Programme ("Siraj") to disseminate information on drug abuse prevention and awareness and methods for counselling parents on the need to properly supervise and care for their children.

Issue 4: Practical measures tailored to the specific needs of children and youth to prevent drug abuse and facilitate consideration of the needs of underage drug offenders with regard to the criminal justice system

Recommendation 15

Member States are encouraged to identify and adopt a framework of legislative aid services to support and protect the rights of young offenders interacting with the criminal justice system.

82. Egypt reported having implemented this recommendation.

83. Saudi Arabia reported having taken measures to protect young offenders within the criminal justice system and to ensure they were treated and supported appropriately, so that they would not get involved in crime.

84. The law in the Syrian Arab Republic contained a set of procedural guarantees for juvenile delinquents from the interrogation method to having a trial before special courts to take account of their status as juveniles. Juveniles serve their sentences in special facilities away from adult offenders.

85. The Government of Tajikistan has adopted a conceptual framework for providing free legal aid. In accordance with that conceptual framework, the Legal Assistance Centre was established within the Ministry of Justice. There are also other governmental and non-governmental institutions in Tajikistan that provide citizens with cost-free legal assistance.

86. Turkey referred to article 188 of the Penal Code, on the production of and trade in narcotics and psychotropic substances. Article 188 requires any person who offers for sale, sells, supplies, administers the movement of, transports, stores, purchases, receives or possesses narcotics or psychotropic substances inside the country to be sentenced to not less than 10 years' imprisonment. However, in the event that the person to whom narcotics or psychotropic substances are delivered or sold is a juvenile, the sentence to be imposed on the person delivering or selling the substance may not be less than fifteen years' imprisonment. Where the offence concerns heroin, cocaine, morphine or base morphine and is committed in school facilities, the penalty must be increased by one half.

87. The Child Protection Act was promulgated by the United Arab Emirates in 2016 to protect the right of children to life, survival and development and to protect children from neglect and exploitation. In addition, the Juvenile Delinquency Act governs the treatment of young offenders who are in contact with the criminal justice system.

Recommendation 16

Governments are encouraged to adopt balanced and comprehensive national drug prevention strategies that are in line with the guidance available in the *International Standards on Drug Use Prevention*.

88. Egypt reported having implemented this recommendation.

89. Saudi Arabia was keen to ensure that its plans were aligned with international standards by adopting recommendations made by UNODC and their implementation through drug awareness campaigns.

90. Work to implement the national strategy in the Syrian Arab Republic was still ongoing. The strategy was built on a policy of supply control through operational action, legislative amendments and a commitment to international conventions. In parallel, the country had a demand reduction policy based on raising awareness of drug harm and effects, continued rehabilitation, reintegration and absorption, treatment and subsequent integration.

91. The Government of Tajikistan had approved a sectoral programme for the implementation of the National Strategy to Combat Drug Trafficking 2013–2020 to support the execution of the Strategy.

92. Turkey reported having implemented this recommendation.

93. A national counter-narcotics strategy had been launched in the United Arab Emirates. The strategy was based on two main approaches: drug supply reduction and drug demand reduction. It also covered drug abuse prevention and drug awareness initiatives, and the encouragement of users to seek treatment.

Recommendation 17

Members States are encouraged to adopt youth drug prevention programmes that take into consideration the needs of youth and children and address the risk factors and vulnerabilities associated with each developmental stage.

94. Egypt reported having implemented this recommendation.

95. Saudi Arabia reported that the Secretariat of the National Committee for Narcotics Control and the Department of Preventive Affairs of the General Directorate of Narcotics Control had launched several television programmes and cartoons targeting children and young people. The Secretariat also cooperated with civil society institutions in monitoring the social behaviour of young people that could cause them to take drugs.

96. The Syrian Arab Republic reported that seminars and programmes had been held in cooperation with organizations specialized in the care of children and young people to raise awareness of the dangers posed by drugs. The activities were held under the supervision of the Interior Ministry and the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour.

97. The Drug Control Agency of Tajikistan drew up and approves joint plans with the Ministry of Education and Science, the Ministry of Labour, Migration and Employment, the Ministry of Culture, the Ministry of Defence, the Committee on Youth Affairs and Sports, the Committee for Television and Radio Broadcasting, the Committee on Women and Family Affairs, the Committee on Religious Affairs and Regulation of National Traditions, Celebrations and Ceremonies, and the Service for the Prevention of Delinquency among Minors and Youth of the Ministry of the Interior. As part of drug abuse prevention measures among different sectors of the population, community meetings were organized in the country's various districts, including meetings involving the participation of young people and schoolchildren.

98. Turkey reported that the Turkish Green Crescent Society was the largest non-governmental organization dealing with drug prevention activities.

99. The United Arab Emirates reported that academic specialists in various disciplines relating to drug abuse prevention among young persons had systematically

an[illegible] scientifically designed drug prevention programmes that were being implemented na[illegible]ionally in collaboration with partners from all national institutions.